

Subject: Today's Press - November 30, 2004

Below are highlights of today's press. Please use the papers' web sites to see the whole articles. If you want an article from the Wall Street Journal, call Susie Elwanger at (360) 236-4027. This message goes to all members of the Senior Management Team and the Program Management Team. Please distribute it more broadly in your office if you wish.

[USA TODAY](#)

November 30

[JUSTICES DOUBTFUL ABOUT MEDICAL MARIJUANA](#)

Liberal and conservative Supreme Court justices expressed doubt Monday that sick patients should be allowed to use doctor-recommended marijuana to relieve pain. Justice Antonin Scalia, one of the five conservatives on the nine-member court, said federal law criminalizing marijuana trumps a California law that allows chronically ill patients to use it. The Supreme Court's decision is likely to have an impact on California and the other states that permit marijuana use for medical reasons: Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont and Washington.

WALL STREET JOURNAL

November

STAYING HEALTHY DURING FLU SEASON

Flu season is here, increasing worries among millions of Americans who weren't able to get a vaccine because of this year's shortage. Not everyone knows that there still is some flu vaccine to be found. And beyond that, there are some ways to help fend off the virus, limit the suffering it causes and reduce the chances of spreading it.

CANCER SURVIVORS GRAPPLE WITH ISSUES BEYOND THEIR HEALTH

A major survey of the problems confronting cancer survivors found that the majority of respondents said they continue to deal with health issues as well as financial and emotional repercussions years after their treatment ends. The LiveStrong poll of more than 1,000 cancer survivors is being released later this week by the Lance Armstrong Foundation, an educational and advocacy organization that focuses on all aspects of living with cancer.

[SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER](#)

November 30

[MORE FLU VACCINE FOR THOSE AT HIGH RISK](#)

Another 60,000 doses of flu vaccine will be available in King County through January.

[MORE THAN JUST AN APPLE A DAY – AND KIDS LOVE IT](#)

Bearing a basket of snacks, Hector Rendon-Garcia had barely stepped through the doorway to his third-grade classroom when a shout came from the corner. "What's today? Apples? Yay!"

SEATTLE TIMES

November 30

MEDICAL MARIJUANA TAKES CENTER STAGE

The Supreme Court questioned whether state medical-marijuana laws might be abused by people who aren't really sick as it debated yesterday whether the federal government can prosecute patients who smoke pot on doctors' orders.

STUDY: VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS DOWN 50% IN DECADE

Violent crime against students in schools fell by 50 percent between 1992 and 2002, with young people more often targeted for violence away from school.

STATE TO GET MORE FLU VACCINE

Some high-risk patients have another shot at getting their flu vaccine. State and local public health authorities have divvied up 160,000 additional adult doses destined for Washington.

STATE'S FEDERAL PIE SLICE: BILLIONS

There's \$240,000 for an undersea museum in Keyport, Kitsap County, \$121,250 for improvements to a former vaudeville theater in Bellingham, and \$2 billion for cleanup at the Hanford nuclear reservation. (Story mentions a provision of the spending bill opposed by Sen. Murray dealing with abortion).

KICKING OUT THE JUNK: A HEALTHY EDUCATION (Letter to the Editor)

(A letter to the Editor referring to the "Schools' ban on junk food takes bite out of budget" story that ran in the Times Nov. 26, written by John Britt, RN, MPH, Seattle).

A DAY FOR REMEMBERING

Tomorrow is World AIDS Day, a day to remember those who have died of the disease and to focus attention on global efforts to prevent and treat it. Several local events are scheduled: • University of Washington faculty members and students will share results of research regarding Third-World access to AIDS medications at a public presentation at 3:30 p.m. in Thomson Hall, Room 101, north of the student-union building. A second presentation will focus on the way UW medical research is patented and licensed to pharmaceutical companies. (Snohomish Health District is mentioned in the article.)

THE NEWS TRIBUNE (TACOMA)

November 30

17,000 FLU SHOTS ON THE WAY

Pierce County doctors soon will have at least some flu vaccine for patients at risk for serious complications with the arrival from the state of 10,950 doses in December and 6,200 doses in January. That's about 40 percent of what area providers say they need to cover county residents at risk for pneumonia and other complications. About 2 million Washingtonians fall into the at-risk category, which includes adults over 65, pregnant women, people with chronic illnesses and people who provide direct care to people who are chronically ill. (Mary Selecky quoted.)

FLU REMAINS A MEDICAL MYSTERY, CDC SAYS

When it comes to the flu, few things are certain, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say. A flu shot does not guarantee 100 percent protection, and the danger posed by the disease itself is not completely clear. The vaccine prevents the flu in up to 90 percent of healthy persons under 65, the CDC says, but people with chronic medical conditions can expect only 30 to 70 percent protection from flu-related pneumonia and hospitalization. Given such uncertainty, additional safety steps are a good idea. The state health department advises common sense courtesy if you think you are sick: Cover your mouth when you cough, wash your hands frequently and stay home.

[EDITORIAL: SMOKING BAN APPEAL FACES LEGAL OBSTACLE](#)

Backers of the Pierce County smoking ban shouldn't put too much hope in winning a favorable ruling from the state Supreme Court. The health department is appealing a Pierce County court ruling in January that overturned the ban. The problem is that the state's misnamed Clean Indoor Air Act of 1985 specifically allows smoking in taverns casinos, lounges and other venues. The specific language of the act will probably trump the general authority of the health board to protect the public against health threats. It will most likely take legislative action or a successful statewide initiative.

[SPOKESMAN REVIEW](#)

November 30

No DOH related news.

[OLYMPIAN](#)

November 30

[JUSTICES SKEPTICAL OF POT EFFORTS](#)

Supreme Court justices expressed doubt Monday that sick patients should be allowed to use doctor-recommended marijuana to relieve pain.

[BLOOD SUGAR MAY BE KEY TO DIET SUCCESS](#) (no link)

Diets that minimize the amount of sugar in the blood after a meal may make it easier to avoid regaining lost weight, a preliminary study found.

[WORLD AIDS DAY FOCUSES ON WOMEN](#) (Opinion)

Wednesday is World AIDS Day, and this year's focus is on women and their increased risk for this deadly disease. African-American women are being infected with HIV at a rate 13 times that for white women.

[THOUSANDS OF FLU SHOTS COMING TO THE COUNTY](#)

The state Department of Health has allocated its remaining supplies of flu shot vaccine to Washington counties. The 160,000 doses of flu vaccine are reserved for people at the highest risk of complications from the flu.

[YAKIMA-HERALD REPUBLIC](#)

November 30

[NEW FLU DOES HEAD TO VALLEY](#)

More flu vaccine is on its way to Yakima County. The county will receive about 5,300 additional flu vaccine doses over the next two months, the state Department of Health announced Monday. The Yakima County Health District, which does not give flu vaccinations, will distribute the doses to immunization providers. The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determined

that Washington's share of 7.2 million remaining doses currently in production is about 160,000. (Donn Moyer is quoted in the article.)

TRI-CITY HERALD

November 30

VACCINE AGAINST RICIN TO BE TESTED

Texas researchers will begin clinical trials of a candidate vaccine against the deadly toxin ricin, a biological agent that can only be tested in select labs. University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas received approval from the Food and Drug Administration to conduct the safety trial in humans.

WASHINGTON POST

November 30

No DOH related news.

NEW YORK TIMES

November 30

No DOH related news.

EVERETT HERALD

November 30

MORE FLU VACCINE COMING

Snohomish County will get nearly 13,000 more doses of flu vaccine by the end of the year, health officials announced Monday. Most of the 12,930 doses of flu vaccine will go straight to private and community clinics when it comes in. Dr. M. Ward Hinds, health officer for the Snohomish Health District, said the agency doesn't know how much will come in at once. At the health district, vaccinations first will be offered to people on the agency's waiting list. The district has already called approximately 1,000 people on its high-risk list. If any vaccine is left, it will be distributed to hospitals, clinics and health providers in the county. (Dr. M. Ward Hinds is mentioned the article.)